

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00812 270456Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 HA-05 USIA-06 /062 W
-----002441 270503Z /23

R 270415Z MAR 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0227
INFO /AMCONSUL HONG KONG 6291
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0812

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT SHUM CH
SUBJ: EXECUTION NOTICE IN KUNMING

1. SUMMARY. A KUNMING COURT NOTICE DATED JAN 31 CONTAINED PARTICULARS OF 19 RECENT CASES. ONE OF THE ACCUSED WAS "EXECUTED FORTHWITH" FOR HIS CRIMES, FOUR WERE GIVEN SUSPENDED DEATH SENTENCES COUPLED WITH COMPULSORY LABOR STINTS OF TWO YEARS, AND THE OTHERS DREW LONG PRISON TERMS. END SUMMARY.
2. USLO OFFICER ACCOMPANYING AMBASSADOR WOODCOCK ON THREE-DAY VISIT TO KUNMING (MARCH 20-23) NOTICED KUNMING MIDDLE (CHUNG-CHI) COURT NOTICE #1 OF 1978 POSTED ON SEVERAL WALLS NEAR THE CENTER OF THE CITY. DATED JAN 31, 31, 1978, THE NOTICE PROVIDED PARTICULARS AND SENTENCES METED OUT IN 19 RECENT CASES BROUGHT BEFORE THE COURT.
3. THE FIRST CASE INVOLVED A 22-YEAR-OLD DEFENDANT NAMED HSU KUEI-CHANG (1776/6311/2490) WHO WAS CHARGED WITH AN ASSORTMENT OF MISDEMEANORS AND FELONIES INCLUDING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PEKING 00812 270456Z

IMPERSONATING A MILITIAMAN, PETTY THEFT, RAPE, AND DISSEMINATING RUMORS DETRIMENTAL TO CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG. THERE WAS NO REFERENCE TO THE DEFENDANT'S CLASS STATUS OF BACKGROUND. FOR HIS "EXTREMELY SERIOUS CRIMES" HE WAS SENTENCED TO BE EXECUTED "FORTHWITH"; A RED CROSS THROUGH HIS NAME SIGNALLLED THAT THIS HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED PRIOR TO POSTING OF THE NOTICE.

4. FOUR OTHER DEFENDANTS WERE GIVEN SUSPENDED DEATH SENTENCES COUPLED WITH A TWO-YEAR STINT OF "COMPULSORY LABOR" DURING WHICH IT WOULD BE DETERMINED IF THEY DEMONSTRATED GENUINE REPENTANCE. IN GENERAL, NONE OF THESE OFFENDERS HAD COMMITTED SINGLE CRIMES CARRYING CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN WESTERN SOCIETIES BUT THEY WERE GUILTY OF NUMEROUS SERIOUS CRIMES AND HAD PAST CRIMINAL RECORDS. OF THESE THE CASE OF TING CHIEN-HOU (0002/1696/0230) WAS TYPICAL. A 53-YEAR-OLD NATIVE OF YUNNAN PROVINCE, TING SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A HABITUAL CRIMINAL. IN THIS INSTANCE HE WAS CHARGED WITH CORRUPTION (ACCEPTING SMALL BRIBES), "ILLICIT MALE-FEMALE RELATIONS" (A EUPHEMISM CONVEYING SEXUAL INTERCOURSE, PERHAPS INVOLVING THREAT, BUT SHORT OF RAPE), FREQUENT GAMBLING, AND TAKING OF DRUGS.

5. THE OTHER 14 DEFENDANTS WERE GIVEN UP TO 20 YEARS IN PRISON FOR AN ASSORTMENT OF CRIMES.

6. ELSEWHERE IN KUNMING USLO OFFICER NOTD COURT NOTICE DATED FEBRUARY 1977 STILL IN PLACE, PRESUMABLY INTENDED TO SERVE AS A WARNING. THAT NOTICE, THE FIRST OF 1977, CONTAINED DETAILS OF AN ORGANIZED RING OF AUTOMOBILE THIEVES (SIC). THE DEFENDANTS, ALL IN THEIR LATE 20'S OR EARLY 30'S, HAD "STOLEN SHIPMENTS FROM RAILWAY STATIONS, AND HAD SOLD THE STOLEN GOODS. OUT OF 14 DEFENDANTS, THE RINGLEADER AND HIS THREE PRIMARY ACCOMPLICES DREW THE DEATH

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PEKING 00812 270456Z

SENTENCE -- CARRIED OUT "FORTHWITH." THE HARSH SENTENCES, THE NOTICE EXPLAINED, WERE INTENDED TO SERVE AS A WARNING TO ANY INVOLVED IN DISRUPTION OF THE NATION'S RAILWAY SYSTEM. WOODCOCK

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 27 mar 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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